

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks. Claims 2-4 and 6-22 are pending.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 2-4, 6, and 9-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,493,692 (Theimar).

The present invention changes each requestee's process based on a requester, a request content from requester and a status of the requestee at the time that he/she received a request. As such, a response is flexibly changed based on a relationship between a requester and a requestee, and a status of requestee. See paragraph 0005-0007 and Fig. 2 of the present invention. Conventionally, a binary decision such as Access Control List (ACL) was only available where a request was either accepted or not accepted.

In Theimer, a user agent who represents users manages users' statuses and computer devices that the users use in a ubiquitous society. When user A comes closer to user B, the user agent detects such and forwards a message of user A to a computer used by user B. Whether the message should be forwarded or to whom the message is forwarded is determined based on profiles and policies set in the user agent.

The user agent obtains user information of a user to be represented at start-up (Theimer, column 7, lines 60-63), and in response to a request from each user device, determines whether the request should be processed. In Theimer, a request is not a request made to one user from another user as disclosed in the present invention. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, in Theimer, the request is made from a device relating to a user to the user him/herself. See Theimer, column 11, lines 35-55. The user agent processes, based on the profiles or policies, an instruction to a device that a user uses or to a device which becomes available to use, a command (RPC) sent from a computer device (which generates information about a user, etc.). In Theimer, processing in accordance with an environment of a location of a user is made possible by the user agent function. Theimer, however, does not disclose or suggest the method of the present invention, which involves flexibly controlling how a user accessed by another user should respond.

Therefore, independent claims 2-4 and 9-22 are patentable over Theimar. As dependent claim 6 depends from independent claim 4, the dependent claim is patentable over Theimar for at least the reasons presented for independent claim 4.

As Aggarwal is directed to simply sending pop-up messages between users and is not

concerned with processing policies as identified in the present invention, Aggarwal adds nothing of relevance to Theimar.

Therefore, claims 7-8, via independent claim 4, are patentable over the combination of Theimar and Aggarwal.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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